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A NEGATIVE IMPACT REPORT OF A CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY OF THE DONALDSON POINT, DIKE #5 CONSTRUCTION SITE, NEW MADRID COUNTY, MISSOURI

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers
Memphis District

Jimmy D. McNeil
Staff Archeologist

July 1987

ABSTRACT

On 21 July 1987, an intensive cultural resources survey was conducted by the Environmental Analysis Branch of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District, over approximately 1.4 acres. The project is located in New Madrid County, Missouri, Township 21N, Range 15E, SW 1/4 of the SW 1/4 of Section 4 of the Reelfoot Lake Quandrangle. The proposed project includes grading an area for the head of a new dike. A pedestrian survey failed to locate any prehistoric, historic, or architectural sites within the project right-of-way.

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INTRODUCTION

An intensive survey for cultural resources was conducted by Memphis District Archeologist, Mr. Jimmy McNeil and Civil Engineer, Mr. David McNutt, on 21 July 1987, within the Donaldson Point Dike Field project right-of-way. The total project includes approximately 1.4 acres. The survey consisted of visual inspection of the ground surface. No cultural resources was located within the project right-of-way. The pedestrian survey of this area is in accordance with requirements outlined in the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 89-665) and recommended to the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (Public Law 91-190)

Study Area and Project Description

The project is located in New Madrid County, Missouri, Township 21N, Range 15E, SW 1/4, SW 1/4 of Section 4 of the Reel Foot Lake (Figure 1).

A new dike will be constructed in the Mississippi River. The dike will be tried into a graded and ripraped section of bank (Figure 2). The vertical profile showed the upper 0.6M to be recent deposits of sand. Below this was alternating bands of sand and clays.

The area behind topbank was heavily covered with trees and undergrowth. This area was looked but no cultural items were found.

The proposed construction action includes grading the top bank to a stable incline and then covering the area with riprap. All equipment will be brought in by boat and barges. Project right-of-way will extend 200 feet behind existing top bank, 50 feet upstream of the proposed dike line and 250 feet downstream of the dike centerline.

Environmental Setting

The project is located within the Mississippi Alluvial lowland of southeast Missouri which is the Mississippi Embayment of the Gulf Coast plain physiographic province (Steyermark 1963:xvi). The area is at the edge of an alluvial plain between Crowley's Ridge on the west and Sikeston Ridge to the east.

Today there are no large areas of woodlands remaining the area; however, there are scattered trees along roads and ditches. The trees are predominantly oak, elm, and sycamore.

Fauna present today includes raccoon, fox, gray squirrel, fox squirrel and oppossum. A large population of reptiles, amphibians, fish and birds are also found in the area.

Previous Research

Until recently, very little archaeological work has been conducted in the general area of this survey, and no work has been conducted in the immediate project area. Recent work within New Madrid County has been conducted by Chapman (1955), McNerney (1972), Price (1978), and Williams (1964).

Results of the Records Search

As the area was so small no records search was conducted.

Survey Methodology and Results

The designated construction area right-of-way is approximately 1.4 acres in size. The entire area was covered with trees and undergrowth. The survey area extended a 200 feet behind existing topbank, 50 feet upstream of the proposed dike line, and 250 feet downstream of the dike centerline. The vertical profile of the river bank was carefully checked for cultural traces and indicators. None were found. Shovel cuts were excavated and looked every 30 meters. Eight shovel cuts were excavated and screened. No cultural artifacts were found.

Conclusions

Based on an in-field cultural resources survey, no evidence of sigrificant prehistoric, historic, or architectural resources exists within the direct impact zone of the proposed construction work.

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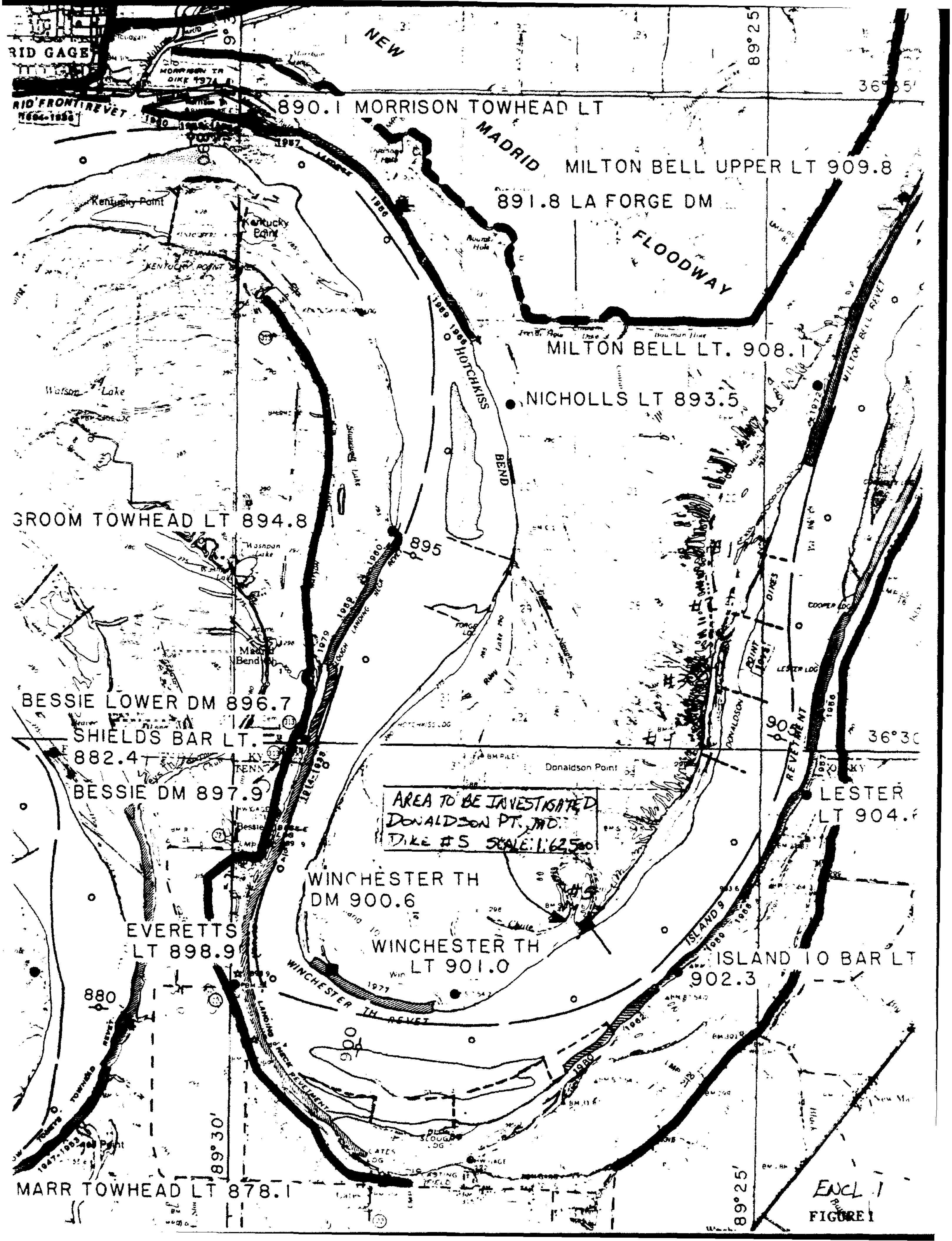


890.1 MORRISON TOWHEAD LT
NEW MADRID FLOODWAY
MILTON BELL UPPER LT 909.8
891.8 LA FORGE DM
MILTON BELL LT. 908.1
NICHOLLS LT 893.5
GROOM TOWHEAD LT 894.8
895
BESSIE LOWER DM 896.7
SHIELDS BAR LT. 882.4
BESSIE DM 897.9
AREA TO BE INVESTIGATED DONALDSON PT. MO. DIKE #5 SCALE: 1:62500
Donaldson Point
LESTER LT 904.
WINCHESTER TH DM 900.6
WINCHESTER TH LT 901.0
EVERETTS LT 898.9
ISLAND 10 BAR LT 902.3
880
900
905
HOTCHKISS BEND
WINCHESTER TH REVET
ISLAND 9
MILTON BELL REVET
Kentucky Point
Watson Lake
Bessie
36°30'
36°35'
89°25'
89°30'
MARR TOWHEAD LT 878.1
ENCL 1

FIGURE 1

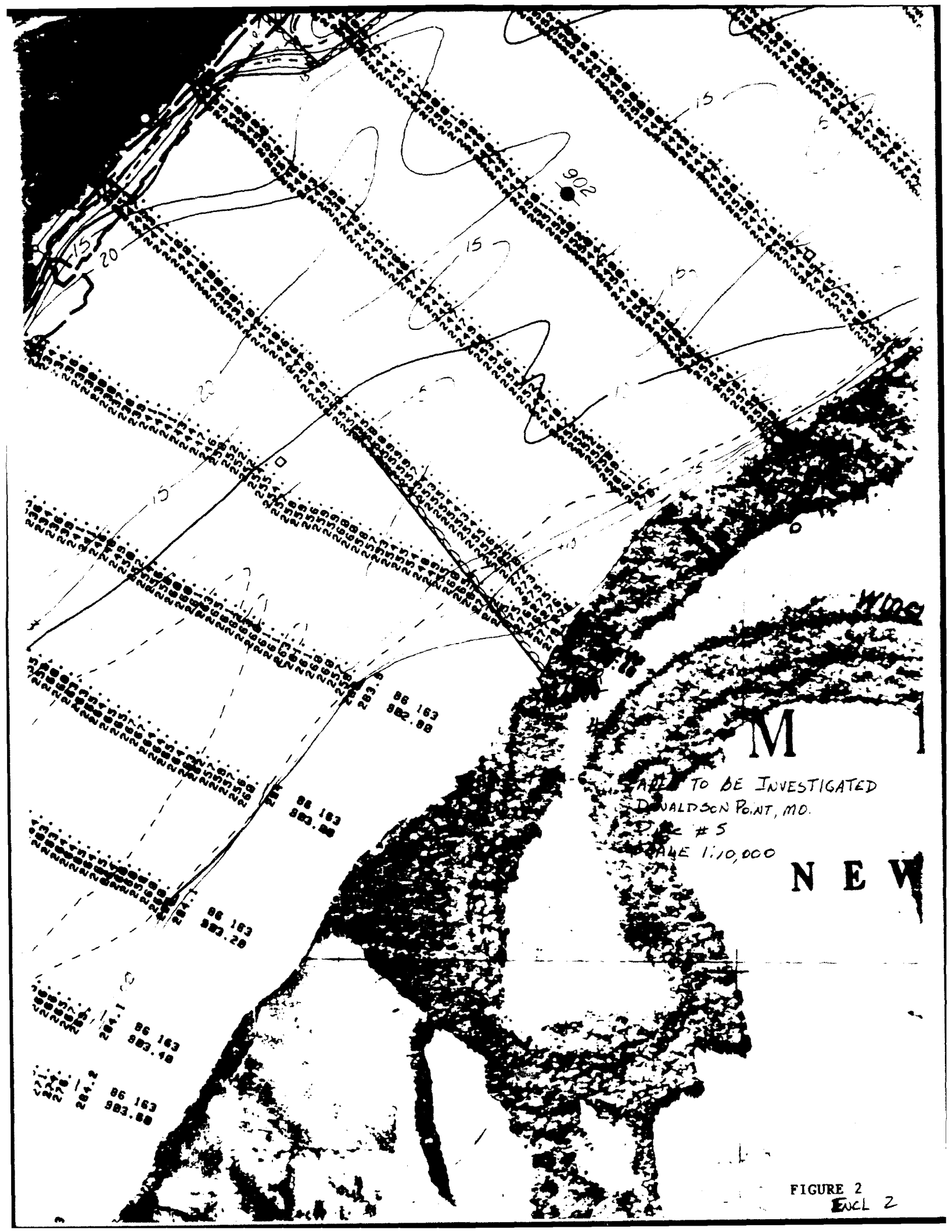
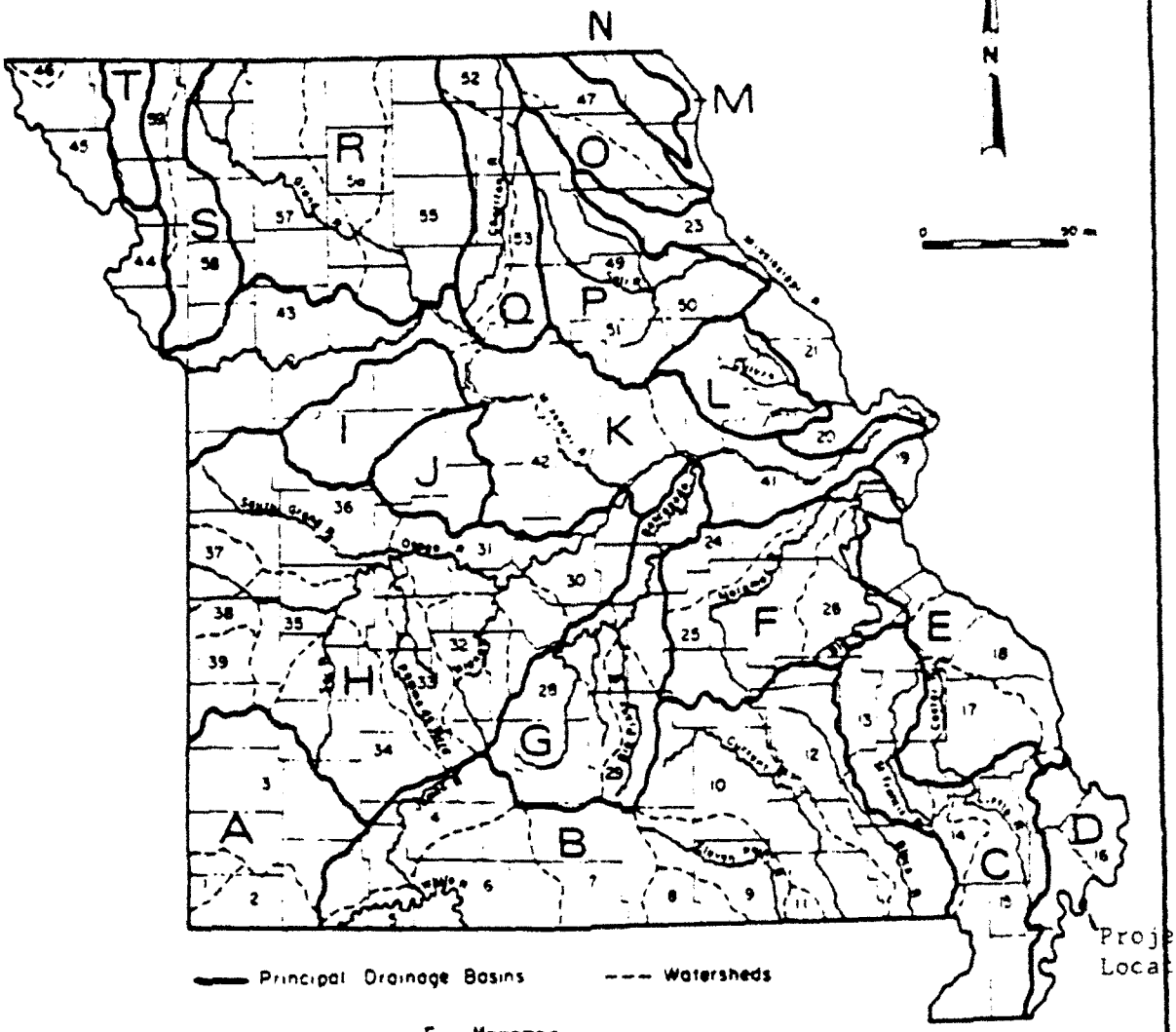


FIGURE 2
ENCL 2



A. Arkansas
   1. Lost Creek
   2. Elk
   3. Spring

B. White
   4. James
   5. Table Rock
   6. White
   7. North Fork
   8. Spring
   9. Eleven Point
   10. Current
   11. Fourche Creek
   12. Black

C. St. Francis
   13. Upper St. Francis
   14. Lower St. Francis
   15. Little River

D. Lower Mississippi
   16. Lower Mississippi

E. Upper Mississippi
   17. Whitewater/Castor
   18. Mississippi 1
   19. Mississippi 2
   20. Mississippi 3
   21. Mississippi 4
   22. Mississippi 5
   23. North River

F. Meramec
   24. Bourbeuse
   25. Meramec
   26. Big

G. Gasconade
   27. Lower Gasconade
   28. Upper Gasconade
   29. Big Piney

H. Osage
   30. Lower Osage
   31. Lake of the Ozarks
   32. Niangua
   33. Pomme de Terre
   34. Sac
   35. Upper Osage
   36. South Grand
   37. Marais des Cygnes
   38. Little Osage
   39. Marmaton

I. Blackwater

J. Lamine

K. Missouri
   41. Missouri 1
   42. Missouri 2
   43. Missouri 3
   44. Missouri 4
   45. Missouri 5
   46. Nishnabotna

L. Cuivre

M. Des Moines

N. Wyaconda/Fox

O. Fabius
   47. North Fabius
   48. South Fabius

P. Salt
   49. Nort Fork
   50. Salt 1
   51. Salt 2

Q. Chariton
   52. Upper Chariton
   53. Lower Chariton
   54. Middle/East Fork

R. Grand
   55. Grand 1
   56. Thompson
   57. Grand 2

S. Platte
   58. Platte
   59. One Hundred & Two

T. Nodaway

FIGURE 3